

1 Interview Summaries

1.1 Town of Skowhegan

Interview Type Telephone, Municipality
Interview Location
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Staff Size (approx) No full time GIS staff
Budget (approx) none
URL:

1.1.1 Overview

Skowhegan has approximately 5,000 parcels that were digitized in 1997. Data is in UTM Meters NAD83.

1.1.2 GIS Initiatives

1.1.2.1 Overview of GIS Utilization

GIS data is currently available in the town on peer to peer networked town computers. The Town is hoping to purchase a server to store the data in a central location. Data is being collected during various town projects. For example, in a joint project with Consumers Water company, valve locations were collected by a town summer intern. This data was integrated into a GIS data layer and shared with the water company.

1.1.2.2 GIS Operating Environment and Infrastructure

- Skowhegan has the following GIS software:
 - ArcView 3.2
 - ArcView .8.1
 - ArcExplorer deployed at a number of departments (town planner suspects that it is under-utilized)
- Town PCs run Windows 98 and Windows 2000
- Machines are networked – peer-to-peer, town is exploring the possibility of getting a server
- 1 plotter 24 inches wide for large maps
- Town has GPS unit (Viasat – a Canadian company – this proved the best unit when working under tree cover)

1.1.2.3 GIS Data Resources and Requirements

1.1.2.3.1 Spatial Data

Tax maps were digitized by Sewell

Summer student used the GPS receiver to capture manholes and catchbasins

Existing data sets include:

Basemap features:

Aerials from 1997 USGS

Analysis layers include:

Parcels

Sewer pipes, manholes, catchbasins, valves

Rovers (OGIS)

Roads (OGIS)

Contours (OGIS)

E911 data

Currently unavailable but desired data sets include:

School district boundaries

Utility data layers

Water company data including distribution system data

CMP pole location data (working with regional CMP manager – may be able to obtain data)

CMP transmission line location (working with regional CMP manager – may be able to obtain data)

3ft contours

1.1.2.3.2 Attribute Data

CAMA is Vision

Permit data is stored in Microsoft word or excel

Sales data is extracted from the CAMA system and put into Excel where statistical analysis is performed.

1.1.2.3.3 Data Issues

- There is no Zoning in the town
- FEMA floodplain maps were found to be inaccurate for the town
- Some attribute data in sewer and drainage system is stored in MS Access

1.1.2.4 GIS Applications and Application Requirements

Staff from Economic and Community Development prints maps of E911 roads for other town departments.

Sewer system analysis and pavement analysis have been performed

Planned future GIS activity and applications:

Police department just got a grant to upgrade their computer systems. Town is hoping that Police will be able to use GIS data in the future.

1.1.3 Other Relevant Issues

- GIS Mapping & Analysis (Tom Burns) is town's GIS consultant
- Town looking into data sharing with Consumers Water Co.
- Town is starting to compile Metadata

1.1.4 Major Benefits and Cost Justification

Skowhegan Economic and Community Development staff use GIS on a regular basis. The town would be able to make better use of the technology and data currently available if there was a town-wide network in place and the data was stored in a central location. The town is hoping to get a server in the near future. In addition, the town is exploring the option of obtaining a DSL line for faster internet access. This would greatly enhance the town's capabilities of downloading data from a statewide GIS web site.

The town noted that there are a number of data sets they get from DOT including information on fisheries and wildlife, that are not available on the OGIS web site. The Town would like to see OGIS maintain a list of all available GIS data sets along with a listing of the departments responsible for maintaining the data sets.